

FIREMEN BATTLE WITH SMOKE

THIRTY-EIGHT OVERCOME IN SUB-CELLAR ON BROADWAY.

Chief Guerin, a Captain and Seven Men sent to Hospital—Others Revived and Sent Back Into Danger—Dry Goods Fire Below Ground Without Visible Flame.

A fire which did not get higher than seven feet below the street level, got the firemen and thirty-eight men in the building at 483 and 485 Broadway. It started at 11:30 A. M. in the subcellar, but when Chief Croker left his completed work at 4 o'clock in the afternoon he had not learned the cause. Nine of his men were in hospitals, knocked out by smoke and gas, and twenty-nine others had been dragged fainting to the street at odd times during the fire, to be revived and sent back to work.

Chief William Guerin of the Fifth Battalion, Capt. Edward J. Levy of Engine 20, Chief Patrick F. Lucas of the Second Battalion and Acting Chief Owen McKernan of the First Battalion were the best known of those overcome. Chief Guerin, who distinguished himself at the Williamsburg Bridge fire, was able to leave Governor Hospital early last evening, almost fully recovered. Capt. Levy's case was more serious, for he was unconscious when taken to St. Vincent's Hospital and became so wildly delirious on arriving there that the doctors were compelled to strap him down. It was said that Levy was improving rapidly and that he probably would be out in a day or two.

The building where the fire occurred is five stories high, running from Broadway to Mercer street, with a cellar and a subcellar. Well, Haskell & Co., dealers in shirts, lace and handkerchiefs, use the subcellar, half of the cellar and half of the ground floor. The other half of the ground floor and floor are occupied by Rice & Hochster, dealers in tortoise shell goods and celluloid stuff. William Meyer & Co., who deal in lace and embroideries, have the upper four floors.

The fire started in the subcellar, supposedly in a pile of boxes and rubbish. It was first seen by James O'Brien, an elevator man. Before he had time to notify Policeman Behm of the Mulberry street station, who rang the first alarm, the smoke had gone through the building by way of the stairs and the elevator shaft, and the employees were scrambling for safety. Those most alarmed were the eight men and thirty girls employed by William Meyer & Co., on the upper floors, but they got down the stairs and out of the building before the fire had reached the ground floor. The seventy-seven men and women working in the shops of Rice & Hochster and Well, Haskell & Co., had also to leave through Mercer street, for the smoke shut off the Broadway exits in a minute.

Deputy Chief Kruger sent in the second alarm and Chief Croker rang the third as soon as he arrived and saw what a job was ahead of him.

Unable to get through the smoke that poured up the stairway from the cellars, the firemen smashed the sidewalk lights and went into the cellar with the hose. Next they had to cut through the floor and drop into the subcellar. The smoke was so thick that no blaze could be seen. The firemen could do nothing but shoot their streams blindly through the smoky mass. Every step forward meant a step nearer to suffocation.

Capt. Levy led his men into this darkness, trying to force his way toward the Mercer street side and there out of the fire. Half an hour passed and his men missed him. They were staggering and his men were now being carried out of the subcellar, now being obliged to grope their way now and again to the Broadway end to get a whiff of air from the street. Capt. Vaughan was of Fire Patrol 1, hearing that Levy was missing, went into the subcellar to find him. He stumbled over Levy's almost submerged body and saw that he was not dead, and carried him to the hose hole, where he was lifted out. Levy was unconscious and half drowned. He had swallowed a lot of smoke and was unable to breathe, and when an ambulance doctor from St. Vincent's came he was afraid that it was all over with the boss of Engine 20.

Five ambulances were on hand—two from St. Vincent's, two from Governor and one from the Hudson street hospital. The surgeons had a busy time. During the first three hours of the fire, resuscitating the firemen was a matter of more importance than the firemen's own work. The men came out so sick and dazed that they looked like dead men; but after they had lain down in doorways along Broadway and Mercer street, and were treated to rich food and milk and got a good fanning, most of them were able and anxious to go back into the smoke pit. Chief Guerin said that they were not only people in the building that had celluloid in stock and they declared that this stock, in the upper cellar, had not been touched by the fire. This seems to have been the fact, for none of the firemen would say that the flame had gone through the ceiling of the subcellar. The firemen also reported that the stock of tortoise shell combs and other goods of that nature was damaged only by smoke and water and a large part of it can be reclaimed. Chief Guerin said that Well, Haskell & Co. would make no guess at their loss, but an insurance man at the fire estimated it at \$25,000. The insurance men were more than that. William Meyer & Co. have no loss except from smoke.

These taken to St. Vincent's Hospital, besides Capt. Levy were Firemen Patrick McKeever, Jr., and Oscar Deblinger of Engine 24, George Bachmann of Engine 9 and John Wanders of Engine 27. All were doing well last night.

At Governor Hospital, besides Chief Guerin, were Assistant Foreman John H. Link of Engine 12, and Fireman John Reilly of Engine 27 and Thomas Dermody of Hook and Ladder 6. These will recover. The firemen who were overcome by smoke, but did not go to hospitals, were as follows:

Engine 12—Thomas McCann, Fred Clark, Engine 13—Henry B. Tenenbaum, Engine 20—John J. Monahan, Valentine

Welding, Peter Kramer, John Conolly, A. G. Garrison, James Fagan, Stephen Reilly, John McLean, Fredrick Beal, John E. Engle 24—Capt. E. V. Lawrence, Jr., Bernard J. Coyle, E. V. Halpin, Albert Hastings.

Engine 27—Assistant Foreman J. E. Ferris, William Cody, James Kelly, George Feil, Engine 24—John J. Abbott, Engine 31—James McEwen, Hook and Ladder 6—Thomas Dermody, Hook and Ladder 7—Assistant Foreman J. Kelly, William Vaughn, Edward Reardon, John B. Brown, John J. Conolly, John J. Kelly, John McDonough and M. J. O'Donohue.

Engine 29 lost a wheel at the corner of Broadway and White street on the way to the fire. The driver was thrown, but not hurt.

Edmund Levy entered the department in 1884, was made an assistant foreman in 1900 and became foreman of Engine 20 on May 15 last.

During the fire, Thomas Wilson, 58 years old and homeless, stole the nozzle from a hose attached to Engine 33 and ran up Broadway, where he was arrested by the firemen and taken to the Tombs court and held in \$200 bail for trial.

Two other men who broke through the fire lines and were arrested were fined \$3 each.

SAD PICKLE FOR THE BOYS.

Youngsters, With Alleged Leader of Ten Years, Arrested for Burglary.

Four boys were arrested by detectives of the Leonard street police station last night on a charge of burglary made by Charles J. Pickle, a pickle manufacturer of 14 Franklin street. His place was entered last Monday night.

The police say they think the boys gained access to the factory yard by a ladder placed against a gate ten feet high, and broke the windows to get into the factory. They took away all the bottles of pickles they could carry.

Attention was attracted to the boys by their trying to sell bottles of pickles in the neighborhood. They gave their names as Martin Healey, 10 years old, of 92 Watts street; Thomas Healey, his cousin, 14 years old, of 38 Hudson street; John Boyce, 11 years old, of 126 Hudson street; and John Maher, 11 years old, of 187 Franklin street.

The police say that Martin Healey, although the youngest of the gang, appears to be the leader.

JAPAN AND OUR SHIPPING LAWS.

Comment on the Extension of Them to the Philippines.

Special Cable Dispatch to This Sun.

TOKYO, June 29.—The Jiji, commenting on the new act of Congress extending the United States coastwise shipping laws to the Philippine Islands, says that the Oriental Steamship Company's Manila, Honolulu and San Francisco line will suffer directly and the Japan Mail Steamship Company's not so much.

Not approving the extension of the principle of coast trade to the distant Philippines, the paper yet admires the Americans for having the courage of their convictions, and appreciates the impulse which the new rule may give their trade. In view of the importance of the trade revival, which is sure to follow the present war in the Pacific, the Jiji says the Japanese merchants must take the American law into consideration and make their plans accordingly.

MAY CLOSE CUBAN EXHIBIT.

Congress Failed to Vote \$50,000 for the St. Louis Show.

Special Cable Dispatch to This Sun.

HAVANA, June 29.—President Palma has refused an offer made by the provincial Council of Havana to furnish the \$50,000 needed for the Cuban exhibit at the St. Louis fair, basing his refusal on the ground that it would be illegal for him to accept the offer.

President Palma has stated that the money is badly needed, and there has been talk of closing the exhibit unless the House of Representatives meets and makes the necessary appropriation.

QUEEN HONORS CURZONS.

Appears as Sponsor for Their Child, Christened Alexandra Naldora.

Special Cable Dispatch to This Sun.

LONDON, June 29.—In the Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace today the daughter of Lord and Lady Curzon was christened Alexandra Naldora. The sponsors were the Queen, the Countess Cowper, the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Brodick, Secretary for War.

Gunboat Launched at Manila.

Special Cable Dispatch to This Sun.

MANILA, June 29.—The gunboat Woodruff was launched today. It is the first of the new class of gunboats, built for the Philippine Islands, which died suddenly on Saturday last, was taken from the legation to the cathedral this afternoon and will be in state there. A requiem mass will be celebrated on Friday by Archbishop Hartley, assisted by Bishops Dougherty, Hendricks and Rooker.

Felix Weingartner to Come Here.

Special Cable Dispatch to This Sun.

BERLIN, June 29.—Felix Weingartner has been engaged to conduct the concert of the New York Philharmonic Society.

The Weather.

The low pressure from the Northwest was moving eastward yesterday over the western section of the Lake region, carrying with it a general rise of temperature, which promises warmer weather for the Atlantic States. The temperature was generally higher yesterday. A very light shower fell in the New England States and in a few scattered showers elsewhere. The weather was fair in this city there was rain in the early morning, followed by fair and warmer weather; winds, fresh easterly; average humidity, 81 per cent.; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 8 A. M., 29.91; 3 P. M., 29.88.

The temperature yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table.

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